



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THREE MORE CO-DEFENDANTS PLEAD GUILTY TO POSSESSION, INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE 400 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three co-defendants pleaded guilty in federal court today to possession with intent to distribute 400 pounds of marijuana.

**Deandre Fugate**, 22, **James D. Fugate**, 20, and **David Searcy**, 27, all of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana.

By pleading guilty, each of the co-defendants admitted that they met at the Ameristar Casino on Oct. 7, 2003, and traveled together to a warehouse in Kansas City to receive a 400-pound shipment of marijuana.

The co-defendants were arrested after an undercover law enforcement officer observed them unloading the marijuana.

Two other co-defendants also pleaded guilty to their role in this case. On May 5, 2004, **Brandon L. Franklin**, 20, and **Damon D. Franklin**, 26, both of Kansas City, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana on Oct. 7, 2003.

All of the co-defendants in this case were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 21, 2003, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, each of the co-defendants may be subject to a maximum sentence of not less than five years and up to 40 years in federal prison without parole. Their sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Wolesky. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)